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PATENT

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Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO §1.97 AND § 1.98

Sir:

The information, patents and/or literature references listed on the attached form PTO-1449, copies of which are enclosed, were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present Information Disclosure Statement. **Therefore, no fee is due.**

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on January 30, 2002.

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Date of Signature Jan 30, 2002